

THE VALLEY FARMER

PRINTING OFFICE,

FARMERS' WAREHOUSE,

AND

AGRICULTURAL AGENCY,

For the Purchase and Sale of

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,

MACHINES, STOCK, POULTRY, BOOKS,

GRASS AND GARDEN SEEDS,

AND

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES,

No. 203, Fourth Street

1855.

All Orders to be Addressed to

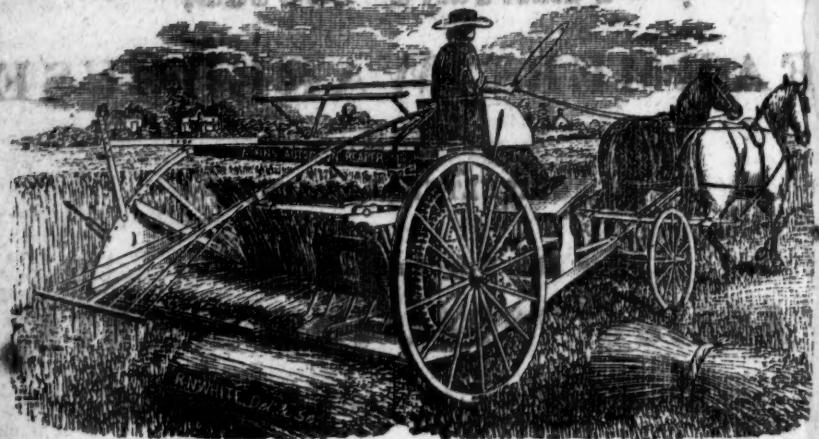
EPHRAIM ABBOTT,

EDITOR VALLEY FARMER,

St. Louis, Mo.

Descriptive Pamphlets and Circulars sent to all Post-Paid  
Applicants.

# ATKINS' Automaton, or Self-Raking REAPER & MOWER.



Warranted to be a good Self Raking Reaper and to be a good Mower.

Price of Self Raking Reaper, transportation from Chicago added, \$170; \$25 to accompany the order; or \$155 in cash on receipt of the Reaper.

Price of Mowing Bar and Extra Knife \$30; \$10 to accompany the order; or \$25 cash on receipt of the Mower.

Fifty-two first Premiums have already been received, including the American Institute; the Franklin Institute; and two at the N. Y. Crystal Palace.

Not only has it proved to be a good Reaper, but it saves the hard labor and expense of raking off by hand; does the work better than a man, particularly in a heavy or lodged crop; and saves a considerable per cent. by the careful handling of the grain. The bundles, too, are deposited in so good order for binding, that farmers say from one-fifth to one-third of the hands are saved in binding. Besides, the grain being laid so straight, it is well secured in the sheaf, and does not drop out in the after handling, and is not exposed in the stack.

This REAPER was brought out successfully in the harvest of 1852, and received the FIRST PREMIUM from eight State Agricultural and mechanical Societies, &c., being at every one at which it was exhibited.

In 1853, FORTY of these Reapers were used in nine States and in Canada with almost uniform satisfaction. The good operations and favorable reputation in the harvest-field was handsomely sustained by an award of TWENTY-SEVEN FIRST PREMIUMS (at every Fair but two at which it was exhibited.)

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, Chicago, and the FRANKLIN INSTITUTE of Philadelphia, also awarded it their premiums, Silver Medals, and the latter also referred it to their Committee on Science and Arts, to try in the harvest-field. The result is

given in their report, and their award of the "SCOTT LEGACY MEDAL," is second to no premium in the United States.

At the New York Crystal Palace (the World's Fair,) the Committee on Agricultural Implements awarded it the FIRST PREMIUM, A SILVER MEDAL, and another Committee awarded it a Bronze Medal for a new Automatic Mechanical Device.

In 1854, three hundred were built, all of which, together with a number left over last year, have been sold, except a few which reached their destinations too late. They are scattered into nineteen States, and though all have not come up to the expectations of purchasers, only seven have been returned, and several of these have since been worked by others with entire success, showing the fault was not in the Reapers, but in the buyers.

When it is considered that the great majority of them have been worked by farmers unaided, very many of whom never even saw one of these Reapers till theirs was received; that owing to delay in getting my knives they were mostly received late, giving no opportunity to become acquainted with them before putting them at once into the harvest-field, it is indeed remarkable that the satisfaction with the machine is generally so strong.

Not only is the one hand saved in raking—the hardest labor in the harvest-field—but the grain is deposited in so good order, that at least another hand, and some say even more, is also saved, in binding.

With the Self-Raker, the smartest man in the field can be put to lead the binders, instead of raking off, which is his usual labor with other Reapers; and in five or six hands binding day after day, more difference than one hand can be made in being led by a good or indifferent one.

About an acre an hour is a fair estimate of its capability, though ordinarily it will do the work in fifteen minutes less. Its swath is about five and a half feet. By changing horses every two or three hours, fifteen acres can be cut, but ten acres is a fair day's work. The draft is at least as light, raker and all, as other reapers. The weight being more than most reapers (about 1200 pounds) the draft up hill is heavier, and correspondingly easier going down.

Several alterations will be made in the machines building for next harvest, which, it is believed will obviate any difficulties experienced in working them last year.

The stroke of the knife is to be increased, being driven through a finger, making the cut five inches. In grass cutting, particularly, this is an important change, it being necessary that the grass be cut as the machine comes up to it, in order to give it an inclination to fall upon and over the finger board. If pressed forward, it of course is inclined the wrong way.

The fingers will be only 2-1-2 inches apart, 5-8 square, and made of the very best Juniata iron, ordered expressly for the purpose. Some made of half inch the past season were too light.

The Rake Handle can now be moved so as to throw the head back several inches from the knife, giving more room when needed for the cut grain before it falls upon the platform, and obviating entirely its being thrown out of place by the rake in traversing the platform. This change is only required in very heavy grain.

The size of the Gears, is now regulated at the will of the driver, by simply moving a lever with his leg, which holds the rake still, throwing it out of gear. If let alone, as it usually will be, a bundle is delivered each fourteen feet.

This answers the first question which almost every one asks, whether the motion of the rake can be altered for light and heavy grain.

The Reel is to be driven by a flat belt, will be made stronger, can be set a little further back when desired, and the bearing on the grain end is to be raised higher, so that grain cannot be caught in the angle. Its supports, too, are much strengthened.

The Rake Spring on the crane-post, which has often broken, is to be changed for an India-rubber ball.

The Hounds and Forward Carriage are altered so that a square corner can be cut, and in turning and in general ease of management, it is now one of the most perfect machines in use. A pole can be used in place of the reach, and the fore-wheels dispensed with.

The Sickle Gearing is set against the outside post, preventing any vibration in the boxes, and increasing the length of the pitman several inches.

THE NEW MOWING BAR.—Those most accustomed to Reapers are most imperative to require that they shall also mow well. This has heretofore been built somewhat with reference to grass as well as grain-cutting, and many have made of it a successful mower. But the proprietor has carefully erred on the safe side, recommending it for nothing that it could not be warranted to do and do well. Hence he has heretofore uniformly refused to recommend it for grass. Now having succeeded in attaching an extra bar for mowing, it is recommended and warranted to do good service in grass as well as grain.

The whole Reaper platform, finger-bar and all, is to be unbolted and kept together, and the raker and reel to be removed, and the mowing bar bolted on in its place, and it is ready for grass-cutting; and in a half an hour it can be changed back again to reap.

Cash price of Reaper at Chicago, \$155, payable \$25 when machine is ordered, and balance when it is received; or, if a credit is wanted on a part, then \$25, with order, \$50 on receipt of machine, \$50 first of June next, and \$15 first of December, next, with interest from May 1st.

MOWING BAR AND KNIFE, \$10 with order—\$10 on its receipt—and \$10 first of July next;—or, \$25 in advance or when received. If not ordered with the Reaper, the \$30 must accompany the order.

MOWER.—The machine will be sold, as a grass-cutter merely, for \$120; payable, \$20 with order—\$35 on its receipt—\$30 first of December next;—or, \$110 in advance; or on receipt of machine. The Self-Raker, platform &c., to complete it for reaping, can, at any time be afterwards ordered for \$80, cash in advance.

FORM OF WARRANTY.—The machine will be warranted to be a good Self-raking-Reaper; that is, that it will reap as well as other Reapers, and that it will deliver the grain in bundles for binding at least as well as can be ordinarily done by hand off reaping machines; that with the Mowing bar, it shall operate usually well as a grass cutter; and that with proper usage, it shall prove a good serviceable machine. It is an express condition of this warranty, that my directions for its use shall be carefully followed; and then, if, for any reason the machine fails to work, the difficulty shall be communicated to the local Agent from whom it was bought, or to me at Chicago; and unless the difficulty be remedied, with all proper dispatch, the machine may be returned to the local Agent, or to me at Chicago—and so much of the purchase money as shall have been paid, shall then be refunded, and the notes be cancelled and delivered up.

## DAVIS &amp; PENNOCK'S

PATENT

## Grain Planter.



We take pleasure in announcing to the wheat growers of the Great West, that a much larger stock of this machine has been manufactured this than any previous season, and that they have been gotten up in a superior style, which will raise them still higher in the estimation of the public.

This machine is known to be the best planter in use. At the World's Fair, held in the New York Crystal Palace, a Bronze Medal, with special approbation, as first and highest premium on Drills, was awarded to the above planter. It has also received the approbation and highest premium at all the State and County Agricultural Societies at which it has been exhibited. It will neither injure or waste the grain, nor is it liable to choke with white caps or straw. It is unsurpassed for Simplicity, Durability, lightness of draught, and for the facility and precision with which it is regulated to seed any desired quantity per acre.

This machine operates well on all kinds of land, and is not injured by coming in contact with roots, rocks, &c. It will plant point rows and all irregular shaped fields without sowing any part twice over, with a saving of 30 to 50 per cent, in labor; it will with ease plant from 10 to 12 acres per day of wheat, oats, barley or other small grain. It will save from 1 to 2 pecks of seed per acre, and yields from 3 to 8 bushels of wheat more to the acre, and in barley the difference is still larger, by distributing the grain uniformly at any desired depth, and leaving a ridge of earth between the rows; the roots of the young plant are protected and invigorated during the winter by the action of the frost, rain mouldering the earth upon them, instead of being thrown out and exposed as in broad-cast. On this account the stalk is stronger and less subject to mildew, and is not so liable to injury by the fly. The farmer is frequently prevented by rain from harrowing his grain after it is sown, which harrowing is needless with this Machine as it completes it at once.

The team has to travel sixteen and a half miles to put in ten acres, which is not more than a reasonable day's work. Any boy who is strong enough to gear a pair of horses and hitch to a wagon, can be taught in fifteen minutes how to manage this Drill.



# What the Farmers Say.

Mr. J. B. RENTCHLER, Sir:—My own conviction upon experiments made by my neighbors had been sufficiently strong to induce me to purchase a drill, and I was just in the act of buying one different from yours, but as I chanced to meet your agent last fall at Jerseyville with your slide drill, and after seeing operate could not help giving it a decided preference over any that had come under my notice, consequently I bought one of him. It has filled my expectation in every particular.

The features of its superiority are its simplicity and strength combined with lightness of draught, any ordinary farm can in one moment regulate its seed any desired quantity per acre.

Respectfully yours, O. P. POWML.

JERSEY Co., Ills., March 5th. 1855.

Mr. J. B. RENTCHLER, Sir:—The drill that I bought of your agent last fall has proved itself to be as represented: its most important qualities are simplicity and strength combined with lightness of draught, and may be safely intrusted to the care of the ordinary farm hand, it is less liable to get out of order than any other drill that has come under my notice. Yours, respectfully, THOMAS CUMMING.

ELKHORN, RANDOLPH Co., Ills.,

March 1st. 1855.

Mr. J. B. RENTCHLER, Sir:—The drill I purchased of you last summer, I have tried and used with entire satisfaction and am fully convinced that it has many advantages over the broadcast system of sowing, and it gives me pleasure to recommend it to the farming community. Yours truly, JOHN STEELE.

JERSEY Co., Ills., April, 3d. 1855.

Mr. J. B. RENTCHLER, Dear Sir:—Last fall I purchased one your slide drills of your traveling agent, and it gives me pleasure to certify that it rendered entire satisfaction and is decidedly the best machine of the kind that I ever have seen on the account of its great simplicity and strength combined with lightness of draught and the ease with which it is regulated as to the quantity of seed to the acre. Yours respectfully, DAVID BURLY.

STAUNTON, Ills., April 9th. 1855.

Mr. J. B. RENTCHLER, Sir:—I have used one of your wheat drills and take pleasure in certifying that it has rendered entire satisfaction, I sowed forty acres of wheat with the above machine and confidently expect to crop two hundred bushels more than I should if I had sown it broadcast.

I believe it to be one the most valuable and economical farming implements in use and would heartily recommend it to every farmer.

Respectfully yours, CLINTON DORSEY.

Extracts of a Letter from HON. WADE M. JACKSON, of Howard county, Mo., to the Editor of the Valley Farmer, dated Fayette, July 8, 1855.

I have used the wheat drill much to my satisfaction. I consider it a great labor saving machine. One hand and a pair of horses can put in ten acres per day, and do it better than any other way I have ever seen wheat put in. The team has got to travel sixteen and a half miles to put in ten acres which is nothing more than a reasonable day's work. I sowed widths broadcast across my fields last fall and put in with the harrow and plow. I have made a fair experiment of the various ways of putting in wheat. I find a difference of one-tenth in favor of the drill, and the quality of wheat much the best. The wheat that was put in with the drill, grew off much the thriftiest early in the spring and matured about five days the earliest, where it grew side by side in the same field and sowed on the same day. I used PENNOCK'S Patent. It is simple and durable in its construction. Any boy who has sense enough to gear a pair of horses and hitch them to a two horse wagon, can be taught in fifteen minutes to manage a drill. It sows more evenly than it is possible for any man to sow broadcast. I think five pecks sowed with the drill will be equally as thick as six sowed broadcast. The labor saved by the drill, and the one-sixth of seed wheat saved, and the increased quantity of wheat grown by putting in with the drill, will amply pay for removing a heavy growth of trees.

I have said Pennock's drill is simple and durable; it certainly is as much so as any implement I have seen, it can be altered in a minute to sow any desired quantity per acre.

RIDGE PRAIRIE, Aug. 13th, 1854.

This is to certify that I have used the Pennock's patent Wheat or Grain Planter, and gives me pleasure to state that I believe it to be the best machine for the purpose intended, that is now in use, and that I can recommend it to the farming community as one of the most economical and perfect agricultural implements with which I am acquainted, and I am convinced by experiment that it is a great saving of labor and seed, and is particularly adapted to flat Prairie land which is liable to throw out by frost and be Winter killed. One of my neighbors put in a field of wheat in the old broadcast system. I also put in a field of wheat with the drill of the same kind of wheat as his, the lands of the same quality and in the same state of cultivation, and most excellently prepared for sowing: he realized 14 bushels of wheat to the acre and mine turned out 22 bushels to the acre.

Yours, &c.

ELIJAH BADGELY.

St. Clair Co., (Ills.) August 14th, 1854.

Mr. J. B. RENTCHLER, *Dear Sir*.—We have had and used on our farm for three years, Pennock's Patent Grain Planter of 1851, and are fully convinced of the advantages of Drilling over the broadcast system. We put in from one hundred to one hundred and twenty acres every year, and not failed having a good crop every year since. In the usual broadcast system we averaged hardly 20 bushels of wheat to the acre. Now, with the above Seeder and Planter we can safely say we get from 25 to 30 bushels per acre, and save at least 30 bushels of seed in a crop. Any boy that can harness and hitch a pair of horses, can do as much as three men in the usual way of broadcast sowing. Last fall the boy accidentally left a small strip of land lay, we then sowed broadcast and harrowed it in, and in harvesting we found it to be very seriously injured by the rust, and that which was put in with the Drill was not affected the least. We also find that by planting with the machine, the grain is much better protected against storms and frost, and is not so liable to be thrown out and killed by the winter, and can recommend it to the farming community as one of the most economical farming agricul-

tural implements with which we are acquainted. We should like to dispose of the one we have now, or have you to alter or to fix it as your improved patent of 1853. It possesses great advantages over the patent of 1851. the advantages it possesses over it, or any other that I ever saw are its great simplicity and the ease with which it regulated as to the quantity of seed per acre and the depth of deposit also the ease with which it is kept clear and clean of weeds and grass that gather around the tubes or flukes in the event of land not being in proper order or state for sowing.

Yours Respectfully,

PHILLIP GUNDLOCK, Sr.  
JACOB GUNDLOCK,  
PHILLIP GUNDLOCK, Jr.  
PH. JOHN GUNDLOCK,  
JOHN NEIBLE, Jr.

St. Clair Co., Ills., August 14th, 1854.

Mr. J. B. RENTCHLER—*Dear Sir*.—I have used your improved Patent Grain Planter of 1853, and am fully convinced of the advantages of Drilling over the broadcast system. It gives me pleasure to recommend it as one of the best farming implements that I ever saw. It has many advantages over the usual way of sowing broadcast. CO. RAD BONHAM.

N

RODERICK OWEN'S

CENTRE DRAFT BREAKING

## PRAIRIE PLOWS,

The only Horizontal and Perpendicular Centre Draft Breaking Plows that are made, East or West, North or South.

These Plows are warranted to do the same amount of work, with from 20 to 50 per cent. less power than any other Plow, requiring only from 225 to 300 pounds draft to cut and turn a 14 inch furrow, two inches deep, in clean tough sod, as tested by the dynamometer; thus making two Horses the most convenient and profitable for breaking Prairie, and thus putting it in the power of every Farmer to

**BREAK HIS OWN PRAIRIE.**

**AND CHOOSE HIS OWN TIME FOR DOING IT.**

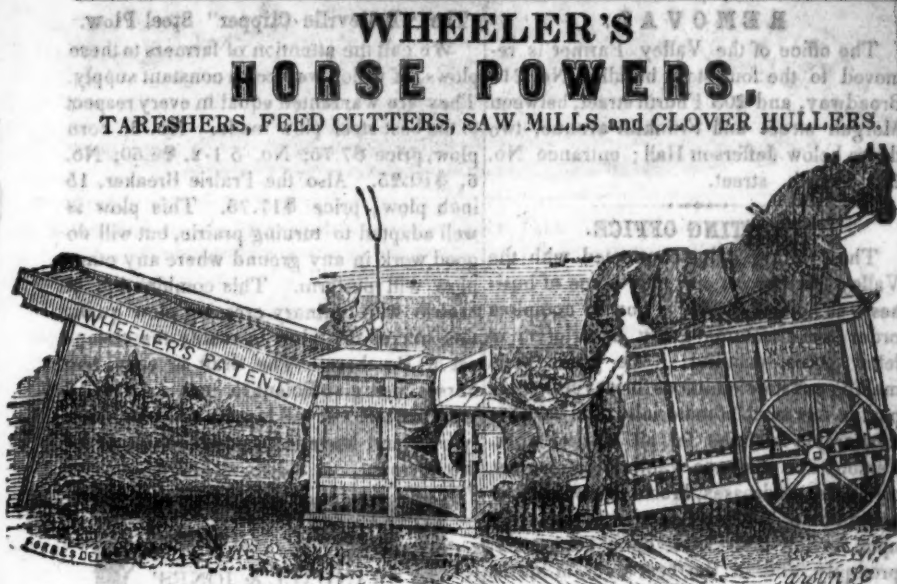
The peculiar advantages these Plows have over all others, are:

1. They are lighter draughts, the friction being taken off the land side, and the mold board being composed of round rods, the friction is lessened on that side. 2. They lay the sod better. The rods being adjusted by means of set screws, you are prepared to lay the sod in any position desired. 3. They endure longer, because the friction is taken off. No joint of the Plow need be parted in sharpening or repairing, except something should break, as the beam or shaft. 4. They are cheaper. You always get two shares, with each Plow, so that the team need not be stopped to sharpen, for while sharpening one share the other can be used, and you can plow on to your heart's content.

The Iowa State Agricultural Fair, held at FAIRFIELD, October, 1854, awarded him a Diploma for the best Breaking Plow. The Committee to whom the subject was referred, say, in their report, "That it is the best Breaking Plow that has ever come under their observation." Signed, Thos. O. Claggett, President, and D. F. Shaffer, Secretary.

His Plows never failed to take the Premium wherever they have been tested; and given universal satisfaction wherever they have been used; and he could bring the testimony of hundreds if it were necessary, to establish their superior excellence and practical utility. But he thinks written testimonials are unnecessary, as there is scarcely a neighborhood in Iowa, or Illinois, where there is not some one who has some knowledge of them.

Price of the fifteen inch Plow, \$17.50.



We have for five years been Agents for Messrs. Wheeler, Melick & Co., for the sale of their excellent machines.

We offer to the farmers of the West all the articles made by Messrs. W. M. & Co. at their home prices, adding actual cost of transportation.

### Patent Railway Chain Horse Powers.

These Powers (represented in the above cut) are unrivalled for driving all kinds of Farmes', Planters', and other Machinery, which admits of being driven by Horse Power. They are made for either one or two horses, and their superior merits, in point of durability, strength and ease of running, are fully established, while their compactness and simplicity, lightness, and greater length and width of treading Floor and Stalk, give them advantages over other Powers, which are highly appreciated by those who have tried them. Several thousands of them are in use, some of which have threshed over 100,000 bushels, and though our present Powers are much improved over the old ones of the same kind, yet the latter are still good. Over 1,000 of them were sold by us and our agents, the past season, (a larger number than in any previous year), thus proving their increasing popularity.

### Patent Combined Thresher & Winnow

This Machine (also represented in the cut) is a late invention. It was got out three years ago, after a long series of experiments resulting in a machine which performs the three operations of Threshing, Separating and winnowing, with as much dispatch, and as few hands and horses as are required to thresh and separate only, with other machines, and although designed for so complicated work, it is yet a model of simplicity and compactness. The entire running parts are driven by the main belt, and one small hand. We have no doubt it is the most perfect machine in use for Threshing and Winnowing. Driven by two horses, they thresh and clean from 150 to 200 bushels of wheat, or twice that quantity of oats per day.

### Overshot Thresher and Separator.

This Machine is also our own invention, and has been in use 13 or 14 years, and its many advantages are appreciated by other Manufacturers, as well as the Farming Public. Driven by our Double Power it threshes and separates from the straw from 150 to 200 bushels of Wheat, or twice that

quantity of oats per day. For the single or one horse power, we make a smaller Thresher and Separator, which threshes from 75 to 100 bushels of wheat per day. The small machine is adapted to moderate sized farms, and as the single power is sufficient for sawing wood, cutting stalks, straw, &c., and driving almost every kind of machine used by farmers, and is capable, by changing horses and elevating the power properly, of threshing much faster than we state above, it is a very popular machine in some sections.

We would also call especial attention to our Clover Hullers, Portable Saw Mills, and Stalk and Straw Cutters, either of which are adapted to our double and single powers.

All our Machines are warranted to give entire satisfaction, or they may be returned after a reasonable time for trial.

### PRICES IN ST. LOUIS.

For Double or Two Horse Power, Thresher and Separator, including belts, wrenches, oil-cans, complete,.....	\$195 00
Double Power alone, including belt.....	145 00
Do without belt.....	140 00
Double Thresher and Separator, alone.....	45 00
Single, or One Horse Power, Thresher and Separator, including, belts, oil-cans and wrenches, complete,.....	150 00
Single Power, alone including belt.....	110 00
Do without belt.....	105 00
Single Thresher and Separator, alone.....	40 00
Clover Hullers.....	40 00
Straw and Stalk Cutters, for Horse Power.....	40 00
Circular Saw Mill, with 24 inch Saw.....	45 00
One Horse Power, without band wheel.....	100 00
Churn Gearing.....	15 00
Band Wheel.....	5 00
Band for Power.....	5 00
Double Power, with Combined Thresher and Winnow, including belts, wrenches, &c.....	235 00
Combined Thresher and Winnow, alone.....	145 00

**REMOVAL.**

The office of the Valley Farmer is removed to the four story building No. 218 Broadway, and 203 Fourth street, between Morgan street and Franklin avenue, two doors below Jefferson Hall; entrance No. 203 Fourth street.

**PRINTING OFFICE.**

The printing office connected with the Valley Farmer, at our new place of business, as noticed above, is now in complete order for executing every description of letter press printing. We have been making constant additions for several years past to our stock of materials, until we have now ample facilities for all kind of work. Persons at a distance wanting catalogues, circulars, addresses, labels, show bills, or commercial blanks of any kind, may rely upon having their work done accurately, promptly, and in the best style, at lowest living rates. We respectfully solicit a share of public patronage.

**Farmers' Warehouse.**

By the above notice it will be seen that we have removed our establishment to the large buildings near to the North Market. We have now spacious rooms in a very desirable location, and we intend doing a general agency and commission business in agricultural implements, tools, seeds, fruit trees, &c. We have now the agency of some of the best nurseries and manufactures in the country, and our arrangements are such that we can supply any article in our line as cheap as it can be bought in St. Louis. We invite our friends to call and see us when they come to St. Louis, and we can assure them, that if they send us their orders, they will be attended to with promptness and on the best terms.

**OSAGE ORANGE SEED.**

We have received, direct from Texas, a small lot of prime fresh Osage Orange seed, warranted the growth of 1854, which we sell at \$20 per bushel, or 75 cts per quart. Also, plants of one and two years' growth.

**The "Belleville Clipper" Steel Plow.**

We call the attention of farmers to these plows, of which we keep a constant supply. They are warranted equal in every respect to the best steel plow made. No. 5, corn plow, price \$7.75; No. 5 1-2, \$8.50; No. 6, \$10.25. Also the Prairie Breaker, 15 inch plow, price \$17.75. This plow is well adapted to turning prairie, but will do good work in any ground where any other plow will perform. This combination of prairie with ordinary crossing plow qualities makes this plow in reality the cheapest of Breakers. The draft is easy, two horses being sufficient to turn a 15 or 16 inch furrow. It will lay the soil completely over and leave it in good condition for the harrow.

**The Valley Farmer.**

WOODWARD & ABBOTT, PUBLISHERS.  
EPHRAIM ABBOTT, Editor.

OFFICE 218 BROADWAY AND 203 FOURTH STREET,  
(Between Franklin Avenue and Morgan street.)  
Entrance on Fourth street,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

**TERMS.**

THE VALLEY FARMER is published on the first of each month, each number containing 48 large octavo pages (including 8 pages devoted to advertisements of matters of interest to farmers,) and is offered at the following rates:

Single copy, one year, \$1 00  
Four copies, \$3; seven copies, \$5; fifteen copies, \$10  
Payments, in all cases, must be made in advance.  
Remittances in gold coins, current bank notes, or postage stamps, may be made by mail at our risk.

AGENTS.—Postmasters and Merchants throughout the country are authorized to act as Agents, and every friend of the enterprise is respectfully requested to aid in extending its circulation.

ADVERTISING.—Advertisements are inserted in the ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT of the Valley Farmer at the following rates:—One insertion of 12 lines, \$1; each additional insertion, 50 cents; 12 lines one year \$6; each additional 12 lines one year, \$4; one page, one insertion, \$7. each additional insertion, \$5; one page, yearly, \$60; Cards of six lines or less, one year, \$4.